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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR: LONDON
BOMBINGS
PARIS - PARIS - FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

LONDON BOMBINGS

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S JULY 14 TELEVISED INTERVIEW DOMINATES HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS TODAY WITH THE MAJORITY OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DAILIES NOTING THAT THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WAS NOT INTENDED TO 'ANNOUNCE' ANYTHING, RATHER IT WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO FRANCE'S MORALE FOLLOWING THE "NO" VOTE ON THE EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM, THE CHOICE OF LONDON TO HOST THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES AND FRANCE'S HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND POOR ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

THE OTHER MAJOR STORY TODAY IS THE IDENTITY OF THE LONDON BOMBING SUSPECTS QUALIFIED FOR THE MOST PART AS "BEYOND SUSPICION" AND "WELL-INTEGRATED." COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE NOTES THAT: "WITH THESE ATTACKS, THE ISLAMISTS IN EFFECT HAVE BROKEN THE UNWRITTEN PACT THAT THEY HAD WITH LONDON IN EXCHANGE FOR TOTAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT." POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN'S HEADLINE ON THURSDAY: "THE THREAT OF KAMIKAZES IN FRANCE" AND INSIDE STORY RELATE THE ITINERARY OF TWO YOUNG PARISIANS WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE ATTACKS IN IRAQ. (SEE PART C)

THE FRIDAY EDITION OF LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN INTERVIEW OF FRANCOIS HEISBOURG DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON. ASKED IF THE WAR IN IRAQ IS A FACTOR IN THE LONDON BOMBINGS HEISBOURG RESPONDED: "THEY DO NOT ATTACK US FOR WHAT WE DO BUT FOR WHAT WE ARE. AFTER ALL, FRANCE HAS NO TROOPS IN IRAQ AND REMAINS AS MUCH A TARGET AS ANYWHERE ELSE."

IN THE SAME VEIN, ALAIN CHOUET, FORMER CHIEF OF THE DGSE (FRENCH INTELLIGENCE) SAYS IN AN INTERVIEW IN LE PARISIEN ON THURSDAY: "BY RECRUITING YOUTHS WHO APPEAR TO BE INTEGRATED IN THE COUNTRY THAT IS TARGETED, THE ISLAMISTS ARE CONSCIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY BY INSTILLING A FEELING OF INCOMPREHENSION AND FUELING HATRED AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES."

SPECIALISTS ON TERRORISM AND COMMENTATORS DELVE INTO THE ROOTS OF TERRORISM. ALI LAIDI, RESEARCHER AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC RELATIONS (IRIS) PENS AN OP-ED IN TODAY'S LE FIGARO THAT TRACES THE ROOTS OF MODERN-DAY TERRORISM TO THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL WHICH MARKED THE END OF A WAR OF IDEOLOGIES AND THE BEGINNING OF A WAR OF VALUES DOMINATED BY THE WEST IN GENERAL AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR. LAIDI EXPLAINS THAT BEN LADEN HAS SEIZED THIS SHIFT AND THEREFORE MERELY USES RELIGION AS A PRETEXT IN A 'STRUGGLE' THAT IS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL.

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

"HOME-MADE KAMIKAZES"

THE UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (07/15):
"THE IMAGE OF YOUTHS LEAVING THEIR HOMES TO BLOW THEMSELVES UP IN SUICIDE ATTACKS HAS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME A FAMILIAR ONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT IT IS A FIRST IN EUROPE. IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE TRY TO EXPLAIN THEIR ACTS USING GEO-POLITICAL REASONS SUCH AS THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR COUNTRY BY A FOREIGN POWER, REPRESSION, POVERTY, ETC. BUT THE SHOCK IS THAT MUCH GREATER IN GREATER BRITAIN SINCE THE KAMIKAZES IN QUESTION ARE HOMEGROWN. THE BRITISH TENDED TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR MODEL OF INTEGRATION BASED ON THE CO-EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES, PROTECTED THEM FROM EXTREMISM. THE AWAKENING IS PARTICULARLY HARSH."

"THE BRITISH MODEL IN DANGER"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN THURSDAY'S RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (07/14): "THE KAMIKAZES ARE EASY TO RECRUIT AND EASY TO REPLACE FOR. IN THIS GREAT APOCALYPTIC SECT THAT IS AL QAEDA. THE SACRIFICE OF THE FOUR TERRORISTS IN LONDON WILL BE USED AS A RECRUITMENT TOOL. TODAY THE BRITISH MODEL OF INTEGRATION HAS COLLAPSED FACED WITH ISLAMIC EXTREMISM. THE AWAKENING WILL BE

AS BRUTAL FOR THE BRITISH AS IT WAS FOR THE DUTCH AFTER THE MURDER OF THEO VAN GOGH. TONY BLAIR IS RIGHT TO CALL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE BRITISH WAY OF LIFE. ANTI-MUSLIM ACTS ARE EXACTLY WHAT THE TERRORISTS ARE HOPING FOR."

"AL QAEDA: A BANNER"

JACQUES AMALRIC COMMENTED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (07/14): "THE ATTACK IN LONDON CONFIRMS THAT AL QAEDA IS NOT A PYRAMIDAL STRUCTURE BUT A BANNER AROUND WHICH FANATIC IDEOLOGUES CAN RALLY. THE TERRORISTS NO LONGER INFILTRATE A COUNTRY, AS WAS THE CASE ON SEPTEMBER 11 2001 IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, NOW THEY ARE BORN AND RESIDE IN THE COUNTRY. THE NEW TWIST TO THE LONDON ATTACKS IS THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE SUICIDE BOMBERS. THIS NOVELTY IS PARADOXICALLY TERRIBLE AND REASSURING AT ONCE. REASSURING BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT SECURITY MEASURES HAVE PREVENTED MASSIVE ATTACKS ON THE SCALE OF SEPTEMBER 11. TO JUSTIFY THE WAR IN IRAQ, GEORGE W. BUSH USED TO CLAIM THAT IT IS BETTER TO FIGHT TERRORISM ABROAD RATHER THAN AT HOME. BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN AMERICANS WILL COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IS NOT A WAR AND THAT IT WILL NOT BE WON ON SOME FAR OFF BATTLEFIELD. IT IS A LONG DRAWN-OUT JOB INVOLVING POLICE COOPERATION, THE RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (UNDENIABLY TRAMPLED AT GUANTANAMO, IN BAGHDAD OR IN COUNTRIES WHERE PRISONERS ARE HANDED OVER BY WASHINGTON TO BE TORTURED). IT INVOLVES PATIENCE, RESOLVE AND COURAGE BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ISLAMIC TERRORISM FOR A LONG TIME TO COME."

"THE BRITISH MODEL OF RESISTANCE"

IVAN RIOUFOL IN HIS WEEKLY "BLOCK NOTES" IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO WRITES (07/15): "MANY BLAMED GEORGE W. BUSH AND TONY BLAIR FOR HAVING FUELED THE FUROR OF AL QAEDA WITH THE INTERVENTION IN IRAQ. AND YET THIS INTERVENTION SERVED TO DO AWAY WITH A DICTATOR WHO SUBSIDIZED WHOLE FAMILIES OF PALESTINIAN SUICIDE BOMBERS. EVEN IF BUSH AND BLAIR MADE MISTAKES THEY REMAIN THE SYMBOLS OF DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE IN THE FACE OF HATRED." STAPLETON